Sturm College of Law
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

October 28, 2026

Dear students –

As you prepare for registration next week, I wanted to take a moment to highlight the course offerings and faculty for the International Legal Studies Program here at the Sturm College of Law. Reminder that this year we updated the bulletin for the program certificate and have also clarified which courses satisfy the elective requirements for the certificate. These courses are all ones we have offered recently and/or are planning to offer again this year or in the near future. However, we're unable to offer every course every year. If you have questions about a specific course, feel free to reach out and I can provide more information about the course and when it can be expected to be offered again.

We've sent this message to students who have signed up for our program. If you want to be removed from future emails (or know someone who would like to receive them), please contact Nick Williams at: nicholas.williams@du.edu

If you have questions about the program or the certificate, please reach out to me.

Thank you,
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For Spring 2027, the following courses are confirmed (more detailed info is below):

- **Comparative Law** – Prof. Goel
- **Holocaust Seminar** – Profs. Smith & Rachael Kamlet
- **Immigration Law & Policy Clinic** – Profs. Jordan & Hathaway
- **International and Comparative Equality Law** – Prof. Loper
- **International Criminal & Procedure** (part-time weekend course) – Prof. Akerson
- **Mining Law** – Dean Wiersema
- **Sustainable Development & International Trade** – Prof. Bruckner
- Vis moot court competition and related course – Prof. Moorin
- Jessup moot court competition and related course (link appears to be down but hopefully will be fixed soon) – Prof. Mathews

A few of these courses have changed since the last update I shared, such as Professor Akerson's switch to a doctrinal course on the part-time schedule, and we had to cancel the course The Spanish Speaker Lawyer due to a change in the professor's availability.

We have a strong group of dedicated and experienced faculty who teach as part of our International Legal Studies Program. You can read more about them on their faculty pages.

Faculty teaching International Legal Studies Courses in Spring 2027:

- Rashmi Goel
- Don Smith
- Elizabeth Jordan
- John Hathaway
- Kelley Loper
- David Akerson
- Annecoos Wiersema – in addition to her teaching and research interests in the field of International Legal Studies, she is the Associate Dean of Graduate and International Legal Programs at the Sturm College of Law
- Kristi Disney Bruckner
- Megan Mathews
- Sam Moorin – Prof. Moorin is a DU grad and former Vis competitor, who will be taking over coaching the Vis moot court team for us this year. Prof. Moorin is Legal Counsel for Kinross Gold Corporation.

Several faculty are not teaching ILSP courses in Spring 2027, but will teach in future semesters, or have significant experience and/or research interests in the field of International Legal Studies:

- J. Robert Brown, Jr.
- Phoenix Cai
- K.K. DuVivier
- Scott Johns
- Louise Seiler

Details on course offerings for Spring 2027 (latest info always on the registrar's schedule website):

LAWS 4135 – Comparative Law (3 Credits)

Comparative Law is the study of the foundation of legal traditions and systems which exist in the world today. The major topics covered in this course are legal history and culture; legal structures; legal actors; and procedure and sources of law. The interactive course begins with an overview followed with coverage of each of the topics in relation to the United States legal system. We then cover the same topics in relationship to the common law tradition and the civil law tradition.

LAWS 4277 – Holocaust Seminar (2 Credits)

This class focuses on conceptions of individual and state accountability. By understanding how the Holocaust occurred, and how individual and collective acquiescence combined with affirmative conduct, we can begin to grasp the complex web that created a moment in time where morality and civilization were abdicated and almost eradicated. We examine how law, culture, power, ignorance and fear combined to create the Final Solution, and how conceptions of moral agency and accountability were forged in flames that marked the death camps. Students read narratives of resistance and collaboration and historical accounts of how the U.S., Europe and religious institutions interacted with the Third Reich. Through the readings and discourse that follow, students have the unique opportunity to question what constitutes moral agency and how individuals and cultural systems should be held accountable for circumstances that created the Third Reich and its ideology. This class is interdisciplinary thereby integrating law with literature, political theory and philosophy. Prerequisite: instructor's permission.

LAWS 4825/4826 - Immigration Law and Policy Clinic & Seminar (9 Credits)

For the fieldwork component of the Immigration Law and Policy Clinic (ILPC), student attorneys appear in immigration court representing indigent, detained clients in bond and/or removal proceedings. Students may also provide consultations with student counsel in the Criminal Defense Clinic on the immigration consequences facing CDC clients. There may be additional opportunities for advocacy in post-conviction and/or federal habeas litigation, and in matters in which the ILPC will provide counsel and legal assistance to non-profit advocacy organizations pursuing policy or legislative reform or other non-litigation (or possibly litigation) matters. Throughout their fieldwork, student attorneys apply knowledge gained through the ILPC seminar by practicing lawyering skills such as interviewing, client counseling, fact investigation, legal research and writing, oral advocacy, negotiation, policy advocacy, and preparation for, and advocacy in, contested hearings. Through the ILPC fieldwork, students will have opportunities to explore systemic problems in the immigration enforcement system—particularly where immigration and criminal enforcement are conflated and entwined—such as racial and economic bias, law enforcement accountability, hyperincarceration, and access to justice. Credit Hours: 5 out-of-class credits (Fall term) / 2 to 7 out-of-class credits (Spring term) ULW: This course does not automatically meet the Upper Level Writing (ULW) requirement. Students who, in the course of their fieldwork, complete written work sufficient to meet the ULW requirement may obtain certification from their instructor.

The Immigration Law and Policy Clinic (ILPC) seminar provides timely instruction in topics relevant to student attorneys appearing in immigration court representing indigent, detained clients in bond and removal proceedings. In seminar, students will learn lawyering skills such as interviewing, client counseling, fact investigation, legal research and writing, oral advocacy, negotiation, policy advocacy, and preparation for, and advocacy in, contested hearings. Some classes may address issues that have not yet arisen in their clinic cases, with the goal of exposing students to different lawyering methods and advocacy tools. Through the ILPC seminar classes and related fieldwork,

students will have opportunities to explore systemic problems in the immigration enforcement system—particularly where immigration and criminal enforcement are conflated and entwined—such as racial and economic bias, law enforcement accountability, hyperincarceration, and access to justice. This course does not meet the Upper Level Writing (ULW) requirement. Credit Hours: 4 in-class credits (Fall) / 2 in-class credits (Spring)

LAWS 4709 – International and Comparative Equality Law (2 Credits)

Equality and non-discrimination are universally regarded as fundamental human rights and their realization is also necessary to ensure the enjoyment of all other human rights and freedoms. Most of the major international human rights treaties as well as national constitutions articulate rights to equality and non-discrimination either in general terms or with reference to particular grounds such as race, gender, disability, religion, etc. Despite its prominent position in human rights law, the precise meaning of equality remains contested and enforcement bodies often provide conflicting interpretations. This course will consider basic concepts of equality and non-discrimination and how these are expressed in international human rights law and domestic or regional law with reference to examples from several jurisdictions. These include, for example, Canada, the European Union, India, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States. In doing so, the course will explore the potential and limits of law as a means of achieving social change as well as possible conflicts between equality and other norms (e.g. traditional cultural practices; freedom of expression; and freedom of religion).

LAWS 4704 – International Criminal Law & Procedure (part-time) (3 Credits)

How does international law define the gravest crimes, and how do courts hold individuals responsible for them? This course explores genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression, alongside a survey of the procedures used by international criminal courts and tribunals. Through landmark cases, contemporary events, and practical in-class exercises, students will apply the law to real-world situations, examine modes of liability and procedural questions, and develop and test legal arguments.

LAWS 4445 – Mining Law (3 Credits)

This course provides the basic framework of mining law. It begins with the acquisition of title to and development of deposits of hard minerals and energy resources under the mining and mineral leasing laws of the federal and state governments in the western United States. Next, it emphasizes the practices and procedures of the various proprietary and regulatory agencies responsible for the management and administration of public lands. Finally, students learn how to resolve competitive demands for exclusive and multiple use of public lands for mineral production and conservation.

LAWS 4556 - Sustainable Dev & Trade (3 Credits)

This seminar is designed to give an introduction to the convergence of trade, environment, and development issues and law, addressing areas of conflict and synergies among them. It focuses on rules, procedures, and institutions aimed at making globalization compatible with sustainable development by integrating trade policy and law with policies that address other aspects of “human development”, such as, environmental concerns, social concerns, human rights, gender issues, and governance. This course satisfies the Upper Level Writing requirement (ULW).